

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
8 AT SEATTLE

9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. CR17-0185-JCC

10 Plaintiff,

ORDER

11 v.

12 MICHAEL ANTHONY AVINGER,

13 Defendant.  
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15 This matter comes before the Court on Defendant's unopposed motion to seal (Dkt. No.  
16 47) his sentencing memorandum (Dkt. No. 48).

17 "There is a strong presumption of public access to the court's files." W.D. Wash. Local  
18 Civ. R. 5(g). To overcome this presumption, there must be a "compelling reason" for sealing  
19 sufficient to outweigh the public's interest in disclosure. *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp.,*  
20 *LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1101 (9th Cir. 2016) (applying the "compelling reason" test to motions to  
21 seal documents "more than tangentially related to the merits of a case"). Defendant seeks to  
22 maintain under seal his sentencing memorandum. The sentencing memorandum contains highly  
23 personal and sensitive information about Defendant, in which the public has minimal interest. On  
24 this basis, the Court finds there is a compelling reason to seal the sentencing memorandum that  
25 outweighs the public's interest in its disclosure.

26 For the foregoing reasons, Defendant's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 47) is GRANTED. The

1 Clerk is DIRECTED to maintain Docket Number 48 under seal.

2 DATED this 4th day of January 2019.

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6 John C. Coughenour  
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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